

## FAST FUEL FACTS

# Methanol



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This document has been reviewed by selected representatives of vehicle manufacturers, fuel providers, fleet operators, and federal and state governments. A technical review committee has also reviewed the publication.



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### FUEL DESCRIPTION

- ◆ Odorless clear liquid, produced from natural gas, coal, or biomass. M85 (blend of 85% methanol and 15% gasoline) is for light-duty applications. M100 (pure methanol) is for heavy-duty applications now; light-duty applications are under development.

### DOMESTIC CONTENT OF FUEL

- ◆ Based on Energy Policy Act definition, as high as 100%; generally at least 90%, depending on world market price.



### FUELING

- ◆ Fueling is the same as with gasoline or diesel fuel.

### FUEL AVAILABILITY

- ◆ Fueling stations are currently sparse, but they are increasingly available in California, New York, Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Detroit, and other locations.  
*Contact sources on back.*
- ◆ M100 is available through bulk suppliers in most major cities.

### VEHICLE EXPERIENCE AND AVAILABILITY

- ◆ More than 15,000 flexible-fuel vehicles are in operation.
- ◆ For model year 1995, Ford offers Taurus as M85 flexible-fuel sedan; cost premium yet to be announced.
- ◆ For model year 1995, Chrysler offers Dodge Intrepid as M85 flexible-fuel sedan; cost premium yet to be announced.
- ◆ Heavy-duty compression-ignition engines are available for M100 from Detroit Diesel.

### OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- ◆ Provides a little over half the driving range of comparable gasoline vehicles.
- ◆ Power, acceleration, and payload are comparable with those for equivalent internal-combustion engine.

### MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Use special lubricants available by direct order from supplier (slight cost premium over conventional motor oils).
- ◆ Use M85-compatible replacement parts (that is, identify M85 as fuel when ordering).
- ◆ Maintenance assistance is available from local dealers; practices are very similar, if not identical, to those for conventionally fueled operations.

### SAFETY

- ◆ Training is required to operate and maintain vehicles.

### COSTS

- ◆ M85 fuel cost is almost double that of gasoline under current taxing structure and market-driven demand.
- ◆ M85 vehicle cost up to \$250 greater than gasoline-fueled vehicle, due to special fittings.

*Methanol*



### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

- ◆ American Methanol Institute (202/467-5050)
- ◆ National Association of Fleet Administrators (908/494-8100)
- ◆ National Alternative Fuels Hotline (800/423-1DOE)

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Emissions than  
Gasoline*

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